# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
# HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
# LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3060
ANSWERED ON:18.08.2004
DIAGNOSTIC KIT FOR HIV
Aaron Rashid Shri J.M.

**Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:**

(a) whether the Government is aware that scientists of Bio-chemistry Department of Delhi University have successfully developed a chemical mixture which after being mixed with the blood sample of the patient and displayed on the slide can confirm the HIV infection immediately;

(b) if so, the details in this regard; and

(c) the steps being taken/proposed to be taken by the Government for popularizing and introducing this device throughout the country?

## Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

(a) to (c): Yes Sir, the Department of Biochemistry, University of Delhi, South Campus, New Delhi has developed a Naked Eye Visual Erythrocyte Agglutination (NEVA) assay technique to detect the presence of antibodies to HIV in blood samples. This test has been licensed for marketing by Drug Controller General of India DCG(I). The study was supported by Department of Biotechnology (DBT).

The Department of Biochemistry, University of Delhi has transferred this technology to M/s Cadila Pharmaceutical Ltd. Ahmedabad, after evaluation of its efficiency. However, the fact is that, there are several such test kits are now available in the market which have been licensed by DCG(I) from time to time. All these rapid test kits take approximately up to 30 minutes time to evaluate the testing HIV status of a person (through the blood sample).

NACO procures HIV test kits centrally after a procedure of competitive bidding at national & international levels as per World Bank Guidelines on procurement. There is no special preference for domestic manufacturers, small scale industries, Govt. of India undertaking etc.

As per our records, this particular product (NEVA), has responded to and participated in the process of competitive bidding. However, it was unable to complete as the cost of the product was excessive. Hence this item has not so far been included in the National AIDS Control Programme.